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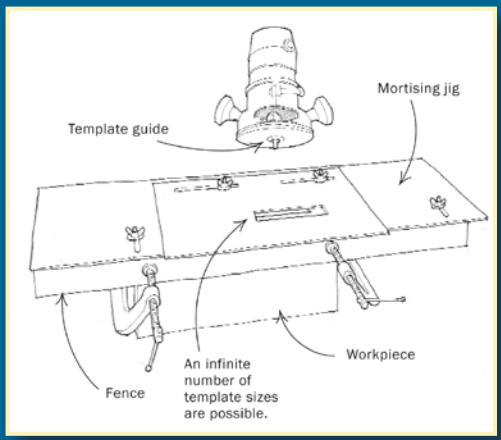
Router Jig

A project plan for a jig that cuts mortises



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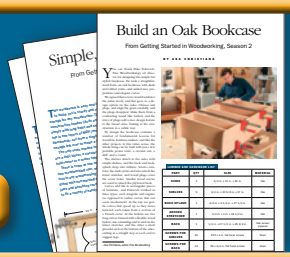

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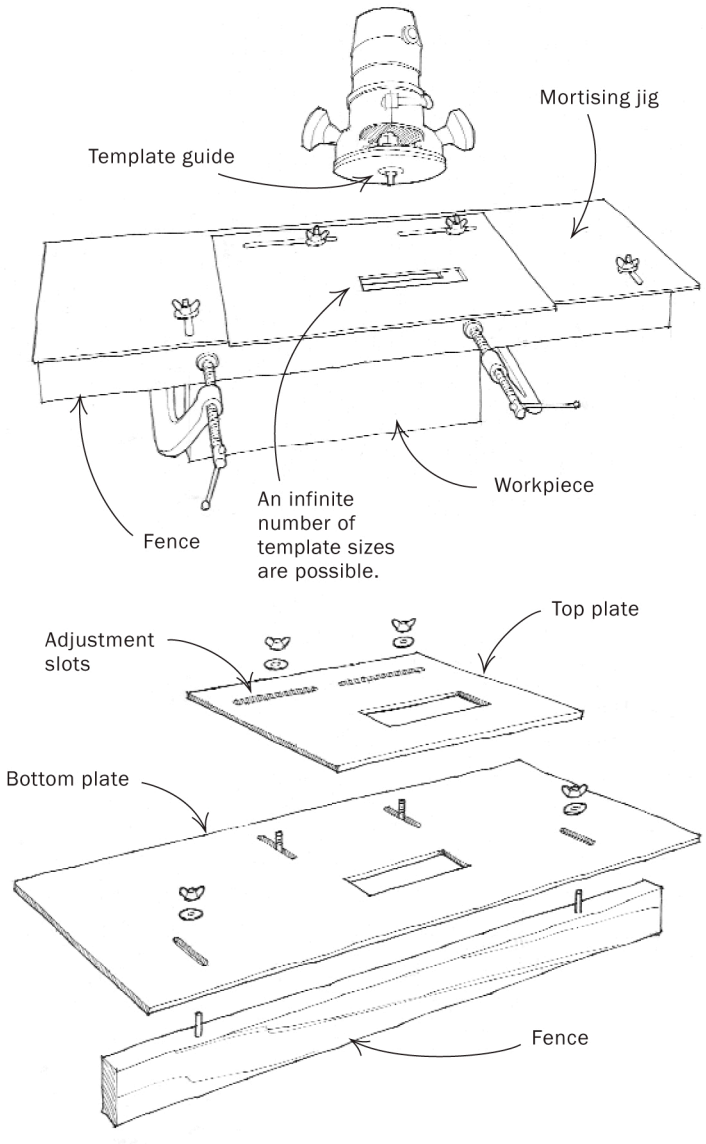
Router jig cuts many different mortises

This simple, self-contained mortising jig is used with a template guide in a router to cut mortises of nearly any size.

The jig is made from two pieces of ⅛-in.-thick medium-density fiberboard (MDF). The smaller top plate rides on a larger bottom plate and adjusts with paired slots and ¼-in. bolts fastened with wing nuts. Because the paired adjustment slots are at right angles to each other, the rectangular cutouts in the plates can be combined to create an infinite variety of template sizes. The adjustable fence attaches to the bottom plate with wing nuts, which tighten ¼-in. bolts through a pair of slots. I cut all of the slots and the rectangular cutouts using a straight bit in a table-mounted router



fitted with a fence. When cutting a mortise, I install a ½-in. outside-diameter template guide in the router and a ¼-in. spiral-cut bit, for an offset of ⅛ in. Be sure the two plates are square to each other before locking them down.

—Michael Walker, Sherwood Park, Alta., Canada